

GULF DEFENDER



Vol. 65, No. 14

Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla. *Home of Air Dominance Training*

April 7, 2006

In brief

Parent University on April observances

The following programs are available 5 p.m. at the Youth Center:

Tuesday – Discipline and the Law

Thursday – Drugs and Alcohol Facts

At 4:30 p.m. April 18 there will be a class titled “Communicating with your Children.”

Parents must pre-register for the seminars at the Child Development Center or the Youth Center. For more information, contact Sheri Ward at 283-7511 or Alma Hooks at 283-8094.

Palm Sunday church services

Catholic and Protestant denominations will have Palm Sunday Mass 9:15 and 11 a.m., respectively, Sunday in Chapel 2. An additional Protestant service will be held 9:30 a.m. at the NCO Academy.

What's inside

Air Force Assistance Fund campaign gets closer to its goal
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NCO Academy students graduate
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Tyndall protects its wildlife
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Tyndall helps build house, community

CHRISSY CUTTITA
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Nestled in one of Panama City's oldest neighborhoods is a house being built by the local community through the volunteer efforts of the local Habitat for Humanity, and almost half of those volunteers come from Tyndall.

“We had this big lot where we could build two houses and the obvious choice was to ask the two biggest bases (Panama City Naval Coastal System and Tyndall) here,” said Mary Kennedy, Habitat for Humanity board president. “We consider both services to be the backbone of our volunteer base. It's new for us that each base has taken on one home each as a project.”

Although the construction sites of the two houses sit side by side, it's not a competition according to Navy Lt. Ben Howard, Panama City Naval Coastal Systems chaplain. The initial call for volunteers did create that stir, with approximately 165 people who signed up the first day, March 18, an overwhelming response for Habitat for Humanity.



Courtesy Photo

Navy Chief Gunner's mate Robert Saanderson, Naval Support Activity Panama City Armory, frames in a doorway March 18. Personnel from local Navy and Air Force installations are building two houses side by side.

“It brings the services together,” said Chad Fletcher, Del-Jen vehicle operator at Tyndall, who enjoys meeting the military members he doesn't often get to see because the two bases are located at opposite sides of the city.

“It's wonderful that the military came out to help,” said Tynetta Jackson, homeowner of the four-bedroom, 1,288 square-foot residence in construction.

For about a year, the family waited to see if they would be chosen by Habitat, and they hope to move into their new home in 16 weeks. That will take the help of many, so members of her church, Greater Deliverance, are also helping along side the military community.

Building the homes is a community partnership, said Art Patrick, Habitat's on-site construction supervisor.

Habitat for Humanity also requires that each family give a certain set of volunteer hours depending on the number of family members over the age of 18.

To be accepted for a home, the family's application includes an inspection of their living conditions. Often these families are living in homes that are overcrowded or have substandard living conditions.

“All the family pays for is the material cost, taxes, escrow and other fees from



Chrissy Cuttita

Canadian Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Yvan Thibault, left, and Tyvarus Russell, future home resident, take out the nails in the frame joints to meet the structural integrity codes of the home they are building for Habitat for Humanity.

our mortgage service,” said Mr. Patrick.

Volunteers are reporting for duty at the construction site Thursday through Saturday weekly on a shift starting at 8 a.m. or 1 p.m.

Approximately 20 Tyndall personnel are needed each Saturday until the end of May, said Master Sgt. Jeff Sumrow, Tyndall's point of contact for Habitat.

“(To volunteer) All you have to do is sign up when you get here,” said Canadian Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Yvan Thibault, Continental U.S. North American Aerospace Defense Command Region Canadian Component chief. “You got to give back, you can't just sit on your laurels.”

Anyone interested in volunteering can contact Jennifer Fletcher, Habitat's volunteer coordinator, at 596-4357.



Chrissy Cuttita

Trickin’

Airman 1st Class Rick Tompkins, 2nd Aircraft Maintenance Unit crew chief, performs a frontside boardslide at the Youth Center’s recently rennovated skate park. Adults can use the park by signing a liability waiver at the center and youth can skate if they are members of the center and have a liability waiver signed by a parent or guardian. The park is open 4 – 9 p.m. Monday–Friday and 2 – 9 p.m. Saturdays. For more information, contact the Youth Center at 283-4366.

ON THE STREET

Military children:
What do you enjoy most about being a military child?



“I enjoy meeting new people and friends because I’m constantly moving.”

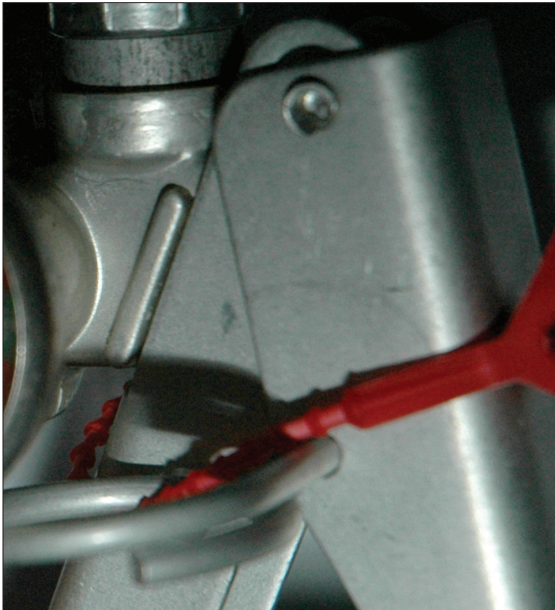
MICHAEL SOTO
Youth Center



“Meeting new people and showing them around base. I like the programs here, like fit factor.”

VICTORIA ROUSE
Youth Center

Identify this....



Can you identify this object? If so, send an e-mail to editor@tyndall.af.mil with “Identify This” in the subject line. Three correct entries will be chosen at random and drawn from a hat to select the final winner. The prize can be claimed at the Public Affairs office. The winner for the March 31 “Identify This” is Senior Airman Kathleen Earnest, 325th Medical Support Squadron medical logistics technician. She correctly guessed it was a sign on the men’s restroom. Come claim your prize!



“Knowing my dad takes care of people.”

SHELBY MERRITT
Child Development Center



“I like watching the jets fly fast.”

SEAN FREY
Youth Center

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Commentary

Being Wingmen sets Airmen apart from the rest

LT. COL. JIM RICHTER
325th Operations Support Squadron commander

I am an Airman and a Wingman to all other Airmen.

A simple phrase or credo by which all of us at Tyndall conduct our lives and mission. And for every Tyndall Airman there is probably a different interpretation about what it means to be a Wingman. Before I pass on mine, let me tell you about three Wingmen who personified the very essence of what being a Wingman is all about.

Staff Sgt. Henry Erwin, a B-29 radio operator during World War II, had the additional duty of firing phosphorous smoke bombs from his lead aircraft to aid in assembling the bomb group at rendezvous points. During one of those missions, a phosphorous bomb exploded back into his aircraft severely injuring and blinding him. Knowing his crew and airplane would be lost if the bomb wasn't dispatched, Sergeant Erwin picked up the

burning bomb, felt his way through the smoke-filled aircraft and discarded the bomb through a window with his burning hands, saving the lives of his crewmates.

Gen. Fred Castle, 8th Air Force Bomb Wing commander, was killed leading a division of B-17s over Liege, Belgium, when his aircraft was attacked by German fighters. With a lost engine, the general could have jettisoned his bombs to gain speed and improve his crew's survival chances, but he didn't because he was flying over friendly troops. He ordered his crew to bail out while he remained at the controls affording his crewmates a chance to escape.

Staff Sgt. Archibald Mathies, an engineer-gunner, took control of a combat-

damaged bomber after an air attack in Europe because his pilot was unconscious and his co-pilot died. Eventually, crew members were ordered to jump, but Sergeant Mathies and the navigator remained aboard because they proclaimed they would not abandon their pilot and co-pilot. Tragically, all four died on their third heroic approach to land the disabled bomber.

Perhaps you may be yourself asking the question, "Could I do that and sacrifice like them?" Or perhaps you may be asking, "Why did these Wingmen offer the final measure of devotion?" Was it for idealism, country or flag? Patriotism drove their initial need to serve, but in their final moments, they gave their lives be-

cause their Wingmen's lives depended on it. Noted historian Stephen Ambrose found that in his four decades of interviewing Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen, heroic acts of valor were, more often than not, driven by unit cohesion and the overwhelming need to take care of each other – to survive.

Do we have to be embroiled in combat or face death together to understand the Wingman concept? Absolutely not, but if you understand what it means to apply a fraction of the sacrifice those three Airmen made, then you are well on your way to understanding what it means to be a good Wingman. Being a strong Wingman encompasses more than just looking out for each other – it is a mindset, an attitude, a way of life.

Good Wingmen ceaselessly strive to be the best technicians in their career field, they think outside the container, they never

“Being a strong Wingman encompasses more than just looking out for each other – it is a mindset, an attitude, way of life.”

LT. COL. JIM RICHTER
325th Operations Support Squadron commander

● SEE WINGMAN PAGE 14

Action Line:

Q: Why does there seem to be policemen policing the area between the base and Parker in the evening but during the day it seems like a race track? You can set cruise control at 45 or 50 mph and drivers will fly by as if you are stopped. If policemen are not going to control the traffic, I suggest they raise the speed limit to 55 since that is what everyone is doing.

A: Thank you for sharing your concerns regarding speeding on U.S. Highway 98. You may

have seen fewer patrols during the daytime hours on the highway due to the incident volume being higher on the base proper during duty hours.

The 325th Security Forces Squadron's response is prioritized based on incident criticality. Due to the sheer volume of calls and the distance involved to respond to numerous incidents on base, our patrols sometimes must depart the U.S. Highway 98 patrol zone to respond to a call in a different sector. During after-duty hours, the base incident volume decreases substantially and allows for more law-enforcement presence on the highway. It is important to remember that U.S. Highway 98 is concurrent jurisdiction, meaning other state agencies have law enforcement authority on the highway, not just the 325th SFS.

The posted speed limit has been identified by the base and the Florida Department of Transportation as appropriate for the highway. This is due to the residential areas, elementary school, and the volume of traffic moving on and off base. A comprehensive traffic study was completed several years ago and identified 45 mph as the most appropriate speed limit for this area. Increasing the speed limit increases traffic-safety problems. We currently monitor traffic complaints and have been successful at dealing with issues reported. If you witness someone driving dangerously, please get the license plate number of the vehicle and report it, along with what the driver was doing, to the 325th SFS control center at 283-2254.

Action Line
Call 283-2255



BRIG. GEN. JACK EGGINTON
325th Fighter Wing commander

The Action Line is your direct line to me. It is one way to make Tyndall a better place to work and live.

The goal is to provide you with an accurate, timely response. You must leave your name, phone number or address to receive a response.

Questions or comments of general interest will be published in this forum. This avenue should only be used after coordinating problems or concerns with supervisors, commanders, first sergeants or facility managers.

If you're not satisfied with the response

or you are unable to resolve the problem, call me at 283-2255.

For fraud, waste and abuse calls, you should talk to the 325th Fighter Wing Inspector General's Office, 283-4646.

Calls concerning energy abuse should be referred to the energy hot line, 283-3995.

Below are more phone numbers that help you in resolving any issues with a base agency.

Commissary	283-4825
Pass and I.D.	283-4191
Medical and Dental	283-7515

MEO	283-2739
MPF	283-2276
SFS Desk Sgt.	283-2254
Services	283-2501
Legal	283-4681
Housing	283-2036
CDC	283-4747
Wing Safety	283-4231
Area Defense Counsel	283-2911
Finance	283-4117
Civil Engineer	283-4949
Civilian Personnel	283-3203
Base Information	283-1113

Thank you for helping me improve Tyndall and I look forward to hearing from you.

Lessons for today's Airmen from yesterday's POWs

MASTER SGT. JULIAN KULICK, III
325th Maintenance Operations Squadron first sergeant

What is 63 years in the perspective of world history?

Not long really, like only yesterday. It was a dangerous time for much of the world 63 years ago in 1943. World War II was in full force. On March 19, 1943, my grandfather, a private who enlisted in the Army only 15 months prior, was captured in Tunisia by the seasoned 21st Panzer division during campaigns that took the lives of more than 2,700 U.S. Army Soldiers. He would spend his next two Christmases and birthdays in the German Stalag III B prisoner of war camp, just 60 miles from Nazi headquarters in Berlin.

While captive, my grandfather wrote in a log given to him by the American YMCA. There are thousands of these logs in existence all over the world and I have my grandfather's. It's com-

pleted with colorful pictures, poetry and commentary. The memorabilia of one young captured Soldier and many of his fellow POWs is recorded on odorous pages wrinkled and yellowing; a window of sorts to the past. Think of the personal memories that wouldn't exist today had it not been for the YMCA caring enough to produce and distribute these blank logs even in the midst of a world war! I read the pages and other things related to those times in the Stalags and try to imagine what life was like for him and the others in captivity. A few things are clear.

In those camps, the American captives had hope. One short poem penned in my grandfather's log is titled "Not if, but When." It recalls the time he already spent captive and speculates on when, not if, they'll be released.

The survivability of the Americans was better compared to other prisoners of less



Courtesy photo

Private Julian Kulick Sr., kneeling, poses for the camera with fellow POWs at a camp in Germany.

modern countries.

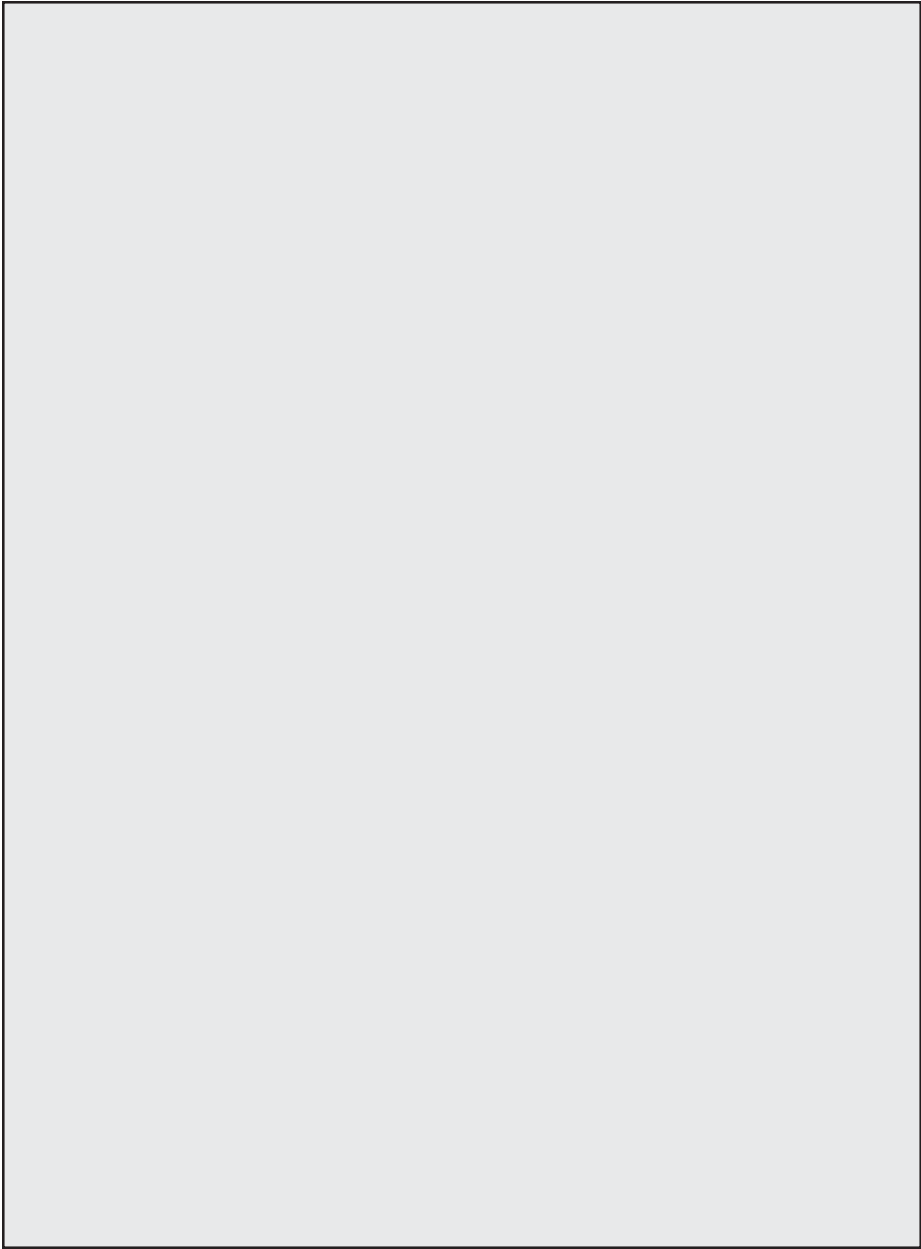
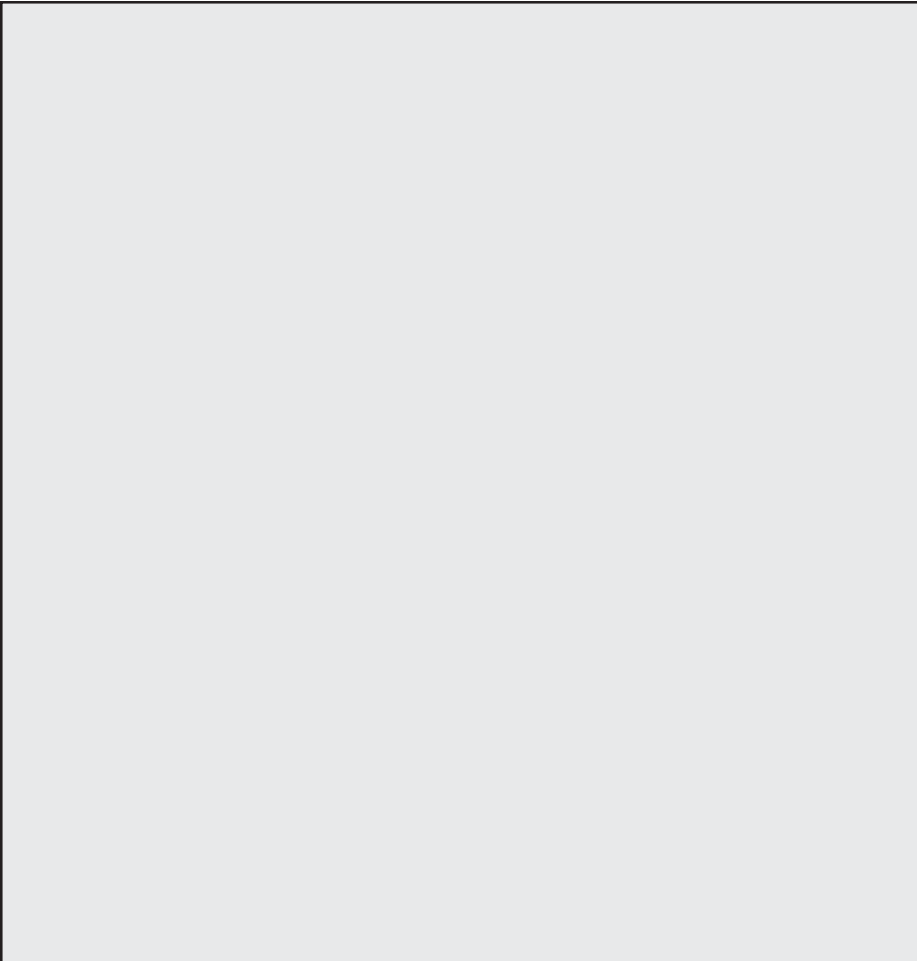
They were better trained, disciplined and cared for prior to their capture and that helped keep many of them alive.

Even in captivity, they maintained discipline and care as much as possible, and it paid off.

Our troops were cared for in the best ways America knew how before they departed, and that care was collateral for the toughest times to come. I also believe the German military respected the American forces a bit more and were more inclined to behave professionally toward Americans. After all, our training, discipline and care made us a professional and formidable enemy with high morale.

Don't misunderstand me. Life in those camps was awful at best. But in some cases, even in the worst of camps, morale was high and the Americans were even described as "cocky." A huge contributor to high morale was support from civilian organizations like

● SEE POW PAGE 15



Donations to AFAP campaign continue two more days

2ND LT. WILL POWELL
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Tyndall's Air Force Assistance Fund campaign wraps up Sunday, allowing donators two more days to contribute to the fund that could someday provide funds back to Airmen here.

Airmen can still donate by contacting their squadron AFAP representative or by visiting the AFAP booth in front of the Base Exchange.

Last year, Tyndall exceeded its goal by raising more than \$72,000, but is still nearly \$8,000 short of meeting this year's goal, said Master Sgt. Pedro Montañez, the installation's deputy project officer.

The fund gives people the opportu-

nity to anonymously help Airmen who may be less fortunate or find themselves in emergencies they are unable to fund.

"The AFAP provides invaluable support to active duty, retirees, Reservists, Guardsmen and their dependants, including surviving spouses," said Senior Master Sgt. Trina Douglas, the installation project officer. "It is designed to help those who have emergency or educational needs and provides a secure retirement home for widows or widowers of Air Force members who need financial assistance. The campaign is about Airmen helping Airmen."



Many charities and fund drives ask for donations for worthy causes, including the Combined Federal Campaign and American Red Cross, but this is the only time of year Airmen can donate to the AFAP, said Sergeant Montañez.

"This extremely worthwhile campaign supports the Air Force Village Indigent Widows' Fund, Air Force Aid Society, Air Force Enlisted Village Indigent Widows' Fund, and the Gen. Curtis E. LeMay Foundation Indigent Widows' Fund," he said. "None of us knows when, or if, we will need the assistance of these organizations, but donations will

ensure the continued availability of these programs for Air Force personnel, their dependants, retirees, and widows/widowers."

In 2005, Airmen exceeded the AFAP's campaign goal by contributing more than \$7.3 million. AETC contributed nearly \$1.2 million and received more than \$4.4 million in assistance, which nearly half went to Airmen after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

People can contribute through cash, check, money order or payroll deduction.

For more information on the program, visit <http://afassistancefund.org>, or contact Sergeant Douglas at 283-8288 or Sergeant Montañez at 283-2805.

Former Tyndall F-15 B-course student enters NASA astronaut program

A former F-22A Raptor test pilot and Tyndall F-15 B-course student has now joined the ranks of an even more elite group of pilots.

Lt. Col. James Dutton became an astronaut with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration in February.

“I wanted to be an astronaut when I joined the Air Force,” he said.

Joining the NASA team, the 37-year-old Eugene, Ore.-native brings some unique capabilities to the space agency. Colonel Dutton flew in the cockpit of an F-15 Eagle from October 1995 to May 1998 and racked up more than 100 combat hours providing direct combat support during Operations Provide Comfort and Northern Watch.

Tyndall pilots have fond memories of their Wingman and the colonel said the friendships he makes in a fighter squadron last forever.

“(Colonel Dutton) ‘Mash’ graduated from the 2nd Fighter Squadron here and got his first Eagle ride in my back seat,” said Lt. Col. Michael Stapleton, 43rd FS commander.

“We were stationed together at Royal Air Force Base Lakenheath,” said Maj. Tom Kafka, 43rd Fighter Squadron F-22A instructor pilot student. “He was the ‘go-to’ guy, an outstanding aviator and a great friend.”

Colonel Dutton has more than 2,000 flight hours in more than 30 different aircraft. Before joining NASA, he was an F-22A test pilot at Edwards AFB, Calif., for two years. He flew avionics and high-risk envelope expansions tests, racking up more than 350 flight hours in the Raptor.

Experience is a tremendous asset to NASA, Colonel Dutton said.

“NASA is in the process of building a new exploration vehicle called the Crew Exploration Vehicle to take us to the moon and eventually to Mars, so I think that experi-

ence is going to be invaluable in terms of developing a new vehicle, understanding what a moderate cockpit is capable of and adapting that to a space mission,” he said.

Being an Eagle pilot here helped lay the foundation for learning how to keep up situational awareness when under pressure in an operational environment, he said.

“The first year and a half of astronaut candidate training was mostly spent learning how to handle shuttle and International Space Station Systems’ malfunctions two and three levels deep,” said the colonel. “The time spent in the simulator is very intense. Numerous malfunctions come from different directions nearly simultaneously.”

Colonel Dutton’s initial technical assignment with NASA’s exploration branch is working on the development of the crew exploration vehicle cockpit.

“I think the military brings a unique skill set to the NASA,” he said.

While Colonel Dutton might be switching his uniform, he said he will still be serving America.

“I think most people are familiar with some of the more famous things that NASA has worked on, but really there is a tremendous contribution (made by NASA) to daily life,” he said. “When you think of everything from the recent hurricanes we’ve had and the monitoring of weather from space, that makes it possible to predict where different events are going to occur.”

Colonel Dutton, whose aviation career started at Tyndall, will remember his Air Force experiences as remarkable ones.

“I think if you always give it your best and enjoy (your opportunities) the whole way, you are going to love the time you have had in the Air Force,” he said. “I know that I certainly have. I enjoyed every aspect of it.”

(Compiled by 325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)

Congratulations to Tyndall’s NCO Academy graduates!

(Editor’s note: The following technical sergeants from Tyndall graduated from the NCO Academy March 30.)

- 
- Wendy Alvarado
 - Patrick Bannister
 - Steven Bright
 - Langela Brown
 - Scott Brown
 - Johnny Cochran
 - Jason Diessner
 - Ryan Dufrain
 - Jason Filasky
 - Rodrick Hills
 - William Irwin
 - Derrick Lopez
 - Robert Montgomery
 - Denise Wilder

Commandant’s Award

Ruben Alaniz

Distinguished Graduates

April Slater

Kristi Sundstrom

Jonas Wildharber

Are you PCSing and have stuff to sell or buy? Buy and sell through the Checkertail Market! Go to Page 16 to place an ad or Page 18 to look for items for sale.



New civilian personnel system means slight pay hike for most

DONNA MILES
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — Most of the first 11,000 Defense Department civilian employees to convert to the new civilian personnel system in April will receive a pay increase, said officials.

About 85 percent of people will see an initial bump in pay when they are enrolled in the new National Security Personnel System, or NSPS, said Joyce Frank, spokeswoman for the system.

The first employees to make the switch in “Spiral 1.1” of the phase-in process will automatically convert to the new system April 30, she said. “No one loses pay” as they convert from the old civil service system to the new pay-for-performance NSPS. Most, in fact, will qualify for a one-time, prorated within-grade increase buy-in.

Employees in step nine or lower of their current civil service government-service grade and with acceptable performance will receive credit toward their next scheduled within-grade step increase, Ms. Frank explained. The credit will be based on the number of days accumulated toward the increase and will be factored in for eligible employees before their positions are converted to pay bands.

The NSPS Web site will offer a conversion tool within the next few days so employees can determine where they will fall in the pay band system

when their positions convert to NSPS, Ms. Frank said. Another new feature on the Web site will be a Web-based training program for employees to learn about NSPS.

A new publication on the Web site, to be issued in hard copy to Spiral 1.1 employees, explains details of the new system, which ultimately will affect more than 650,000 DOD civilian employees.

“HR Elements for Managers, Supervisors and Employees: A Guide to NSPS,” gives employees an overview

of the critical elements they need to understand as they convert to NSPS, Ms. Frank said. It covers pay increases and bonuses, pay bands and job objectives, among other topics.

On the guide’s opening page, Mary Lacey, program executive officer for the NSPS, encourages employees to work with their supervisors to establish job objectives and discuss evaluation criteria and how to improve their on-the-job performance.

“NSPS is a system that is good for the department and it is good for you,” Ms. Lacey wrote. “It will strengthen our ability to accomplish our national security mission and provide opportunities to enhance your personal growth and development.”

Implementation of the new system represents “the beginning of a long journey for all of us, and we will learn from one another,” she wrote.



Associate Spotlight

Maj. Mitchell Stefanish



Lisa Norman

Major Stefanish receives the Associate Spotlight award from Brig. Gen. Marcel Duval, Continental U.S. North American Aerospace Defense Command Region deputy commander.

The Checkertail Clan salutes Major Stefanish who overhauled Defense Support of Civil Authorities training provided to wing commanders at over 80 active-duty and reserves bases. His briefings provide Air Force leadership understanding of the DSCA role, which increases military response time to civil actions.

Duty title: Air Force National Security Emergency Preparedness Agency Liaison Officer

Time in Service: 14 years

Hometown: Lisbon, Ohio

Hobbies: Hunting and following the Cleveland Indians baseball team

Favorite book: "Sharps Rifles" by Bernard Cornwell

Favorite movie: "Kelly's Heroes"

Favorite thing about your unit: The diversity of missions, from civil support to air defense

Goals: To become a squadron commander

Proudest moment in the military: The day my father commissioned me a second lieutenant

The Associate Spotlight is a 325th Fighter Wing commander program designed to recognize a Warrior from one of Tyndall's tenant units. Supervisors can nominate individuals via their squadron and group commanders. Award recipients receive a certificate from the wing commander and other items presented by their unit.

UNDER

CONSTRUCTION

The Sabre Gate remains closed to all traffic. Currently the newly paved roads are being striped, guard shack construction is being finalized, and communications are being installed. During the gate closure, inbound traffic will continue to use the school gate road.

All outbound traffic exiting the base from the housing area, golf course, marina, and youth center will be diverted off Sabre to DeJarnette to Beacon Beach where they must exit through the Illinois gate. Keep your eye on the electronic marquees at the gates for actual opening dates.

Checkertail Salute

Airman 1st Class Brian Angers



Lisa Norman

Airman Angers receives the Checkertail Salute Warrior of the Week award from Brig. Gen. Jack Egginton, 325th Fighter Wing commander.

The Checkertail Clan salutes Airman Angers, 1st Aircraft Maintenance Unit. He responded to an aircraft jet fuel starter fire by controlling the blaze until crews arrived saving fellow crew members and aircraft from catastrophic damage.

Duty title: Electro Environmental Journeyman

Hometown: Millbury, Mass.

Hobbies: Motorcycle riding, video games, fresh-water fishing

Favorite book: "Splinter Cell" by Tom Clancy

Favorite movie: "Friday"

Favorite thing about Tyndall: The beaches

Goals: To excel at my job and make a prominent career of the Air Force

Proudest moment in the military: Graduating from Basic Military Training

The Checkertail Salute is a 325th Fighter Wing commander program designed to recognize Tyndall's Warrior of the Week. Supervisors can nominate individuals via their squadron and group commanders. Award recipients receive a certificate, letter from the commander and a one-day pass.

The Gulf Defender is published for people like Airman 1st Class Calvin Smith, 325th Air Control Squadron pilot simulator technician.

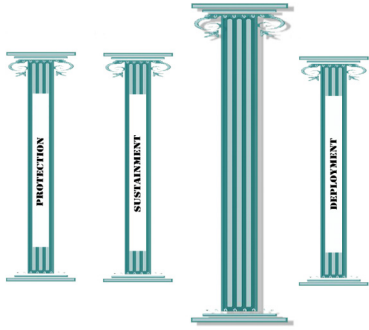


Congratulations!

Maj. Christopher Hoskins, 325th Air Control Squadron assistant operations officer, is the Air Education and Training nominee for the 2005 General John P. Jumper award for excellence in warfighting integration.

Student Focus

FORCE TRAINING



Training Spotlight

What is the most challenging system to learn, maintain or repair on the F-22A Raptor?

“Systems are challenging to learn on newer aircraft. The F-22A relies heavily on the electrical system which is very complex.”



AIRMAN 1ST CLASS SOON TRI
F-22A crew chief, field training detachment

Students train for combat, and the classroom

2ND LT. AMANDA FERRELL
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Ten-hour flights and three-month deployments are considered “normal operations” for mission-qualified air battle managers. ABM training here offers students the technical knowledge and simulator experience needed to join operational squadrons upon graduation, and now they will be better prepared for the physiological stresses of the mission as well.

"I have been asked to brief each new flight of air battle manager students during their first week of training," said Lt. Col. Daniel Kulund, 325th Medical Group chief of medical staff and creator of the Virtual Military Obstacle Course fitness program. He believes that, "the Virtual Military Obstacle Course is the best way to balance sitting in a classroom or flying long missions with physical activity."

The VMOC workshop presented to students at the 325th Air Control Squadron begins with a brief historical perspective explaining the training philosophy. Ancient Roman armies trained like they fought, said Dr. Kulund.

“Training with greater intensity during peacetime prepares warriors for combat. The types of exercises and the intensity with which you train should reflect combat situations,” he said.

Students are briefed on “jet-leg” prevention and the “high five” routine which combines five movements that

will “physically refresh students throughout the day and during flights,” Dr. Kulund said.

Students who attended the first session held March 24 had mixed reactions to the workshop. The intensity and types of exercises are based primarily on calisthenic movements and activities that can be done without traditional gym equipment.

“The exercises are quite different from what I do on a normal basis,” said 2nd Lt. Nicholas Slosky, 325th ACS ABM student. “But the VMOC workshop did have some good ideas for people who need variety in their workout and don’t have a lot of space (to workout in).”

"I show the students Air Force Specialty Code-specific exercises that mirror escape and evasion strategy, tactical movement and convoy and perimeter defense," said Dr. Kulund.

“The (VMOC) can provide me cross training on my ‘off days,” said 2nd Lt. Kyle Jansen, 325th ACS ABM student. “The (exercises) will be a supplement on the aircraft and in classrooms to just sitting.”

A weekly session would benefit



2nd Lt. Amanda Ferrell

Lt. Col. Daniel Kulund demonstrates warm-up exercises during a Virtual Military Obstacle Course workshop offered to incoming ABM students here.

those who are motivated and willing to be better Airmen, he said.

Second Lt. Jaclyn Deutsch, 325th ACSABM student, said that the workshop was “less traditional than what I usually do. I felt like I had worked as hard, if not harder, than I do during my average workout.”

Incoming ABM students will have the chance to participate in the session and offer feedback on the workshop. Initial VMOC demonstrations provide the framework, and adaptations can be made based on the student's individual fitness level.

“These exercises would help Air Force personnel not only meet the physical trianing standards, but exceed them,” said Lieutenant Deutsch. And that’s an advantage every student can benefit from.








2nd Lt. Amanda Ferrell

Bump, set, spike

Senior Airman Cedric Winchester, 325th Air Control Squadron simulator technician, sets the ball as 2nd Lt. Jason Jastillana, 325th ACS air battle manager student, prepares to score during a beach volleyball game. The entire 325th ACS, including over 200 students, 170 permanent party members and thier families, gathered March 31 for the annual "Spring Fling" cook-out at Bonita Bay.

F-15 Eagle B-Course progress chart

Class #	10%	20%	30%	40%	50%	60%	70%	80%	90%	100%	
2006ABT											May 26
2006BBT											June 26
2006CBT											July 20
2006DBT											Aug 15
2006EBT											Sep 14



Terry Walter oversees a controlled burn on base.

Capt. Elaine Hunnicutt

Natural Resource Balancing dominant

MASTER SGT. MARY McHALE

325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

While Tyndall may be best known as the “Home of Air Dominance,” it also serves as the domain for a vast array of natural resources.

Dr. Jack Mobley, Tyndall wildlife biologist, said of 29,000 base acres, a little less than 6,000 are developed. The rest consists of forest, waterways and associated wildlife and plant species that live here, some of which are endangered, but all of which have to be looked after.

Here, that task falls to the natural resources flight of the 325th Civil Engineer Squadron.

“We monitor anything that facilitates interaction with people and natural resources on base,” he said. “Our whole focus is ensuring the base mission can be accomplished while also ensuring we are complying with environmental standards and requirements. We work around mission requirements and gear what we do with maintaining a healthy balance between environmental concerns and mission accomplishment.”

Dr. Mobley said federal and state environmental laws and other plans and mandates guide the flight’s activities.

“We enjoy a close working relation-

ship with local and state officials; we all work together,” the doctor said. “Any time there’s a change in the way land is used, natural resources becomes part of the process.”

The flight is concerned with five areas: wildland fire and fuels management, forest management, fish and wildlife management, non-structured outdoor recreation (hunting and fishing activities on base) and education and public relations.

Terry Walter is the wildland fire program manager for Tyndall.

“I take a very aggressive, proactive approach to preventing wild fires by completing controlled burns,” he said. “By burning the areas, we keep available fuel such as brush, grass, needle litter, palmetto and all other forest biomass to a minimum.”

Mr. Walter said another aspect of his duties is to burn to enhance the ecosystem. He said some species need fire to regenerate and prosper, and when fire is suppressed, there is a direct negative correlation that affects many species.

“Some success stories that we have on Tyndall is that of the bald eagle,” said Mr. Walter. “Since we have started burning, we now have six to eight nesting pairs of bald eagles that would not nest here before the burning took place.”

Johnny Jennings is involved with the flight’s wildlife activities, which involves monitoring the health and welfare of a wide variety of species.

“We perform sea turtle monitoring, nesting, relocating and caging of turtle nests as required,” he said. “We also perform deer, coyote, turkey, shorebird and beach mice surveys.”



A black bear walks along Gator Way near billeting. Natural resource officials suggest base wildlife observers should stay at a safe distance from feeding animals found on Tyndall.



Master Sgt. Mary McHale

This is a device to track the beach mouse population. At the end of the tube on the right is food and the mice leave tracks as they walk through the tube to get the food.

Will Holmes, a biological science wildlife technician, said the surveys help determine numbers and success rates of particular species in particular areas.

Finally there is the education portion of the flight’s activities. The doctor said he speaks to a variety of groups throughout the year about maintaining the wide variety of natural resources at Tyndall.

“It is an ongoing education process, especially with the turnover of military personnel not familiar with Florida ecosystems and their characteristics and maintenance requirements,” said Dr. Mobley. “It’s a matter of fearing what people don’t understand, but anytime there is interaction with animals, we don’t want people being harmed and we don’t want animals being harmed.”

On that note, Dr. Mobley added that the base people population can also be extremely helpful.

“We need peoples’ eyes out there, especially in the spring when there’s a

dynamic amount of animal movement, with a lot of the animals looking around for mates,” he said. “Also, the base populace can help in keeping animals from populated areas by ensuring garbage bins remain closed so as not to attract them.”

Some common sightings on base are white-tail deer, wild turkey, alligators and the occasional bear.

“When I first saw this black bear beginning to cross Beacon Beach Road, my initial reaction was ‘wow,’ astonishment mixed with wonder,” said Tech. Sgt. Brandon Sullivan, 325th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. “I slowed down for our safety, not knowing if it was going to finish crossing or turn around. But it decided to return to the tree line and wait me out, so I continued on after I took a couple of pictures with my digital camera.”

“When you see an animal, ensure you stay a safe distance and enjoy the privilege the animals give you of seeing them,” Dr. Mobley said. “Tyndall is a unique area and the Air Force has done a good job of protecting it so we have a tremendous amount of nature activities for people to enjoy.”

(Below) Alligators of all sizes are often seen on Tyndall near the base waterways.



Senior Airman Sarah McDowell



Master Sgt. Mary McHale



Master Sgt. Mary McHale

Top: Will Holmes checks inside a wood duck box for signs of habitation. Above: Once a week, he checks automatic fish feeder boxes to see if they need refilling.



Dr. Jack Mobley

e and refrain from

Gulf Guide

Briefs

New York Air National Guard career opportunities

The 106th Rescue Unit, N.Y., has several full-time and part-time openings for Airmen who may be considering leaving active duty and still wanting to serve the Total Force. Full-time openings include HC-130 and HH-60 engine mechanics, aircraft mechanics and other maintenance personnel who work with survival equipment or aircraft generation equipment. Part-time openings are available in all maintenance areas. To apply, contact (800) 856-3573, ext. 7497.

Internal medicine clinic closed

Tyndall Clinic's internal medicine clinic is closed. For more information, stop by the Tricare service center by the main pharmacy on the first floor of the clinic.

Tricare town hall briefing

The 325th Medical Group Tricare Operations office is co-hosting a city-wide TricareTown Hall Briefing 6 – 8 p.m. April 18 at the Tyndall NCO Academy. This briefing is open to all Tricare and Tricare For Life beneficiaries who are interested in their health care program. The Medicare Part D prescription plan and skilled nursing versus long-term care will also be discussed. Parking is available directly across the street near Burger King. For additional information, call 283-7331.

Work-study position at GCCC

The Gulf Coast Community College Tyndall office has a work-study position open. Applicants must be a Gulf Coast student receiving federal financial aid and taking six credit hours. The position is 20 hours a week, 4 – 8:30 p.m. Monday–Thursday and 4–6 p.m. Friday. For more information, call 283-4332 or stop by room 45-A at the Education Center.

Better Business Bureau scholarship

The Better Business Bureau Foundation of Northwest Florida is accepting applications from students in Bay County high schools for its 2006 BBB Student Ethics Scholarship Program.



Courtesy photo

All aboard

A F-18E/F Super Hornet, the Navy's newest jet fighter, deploys its landing gear. The U.S. Navy F/A-18F Super Hornet demonstration team (VFA-106) will perform some of the aircraft's dynamic capabilities at the 2006 Gulf Coast Salute April 22-23.

The program offers three \$1,000 scholarships to three high-school juniors or seniors who plan to attend an accredited college in the U.S. or Canada. To apply for the scholarship, students should contact their principal or guidance counselor. Entries must be postmarked by May 19. For more information, contact the Better Business Bureau at 429-0026 or (800) 729-9226.

Gulf Coast Community College registration

The summer and fall schedules will be available Monday with early registration 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday at the Education Center. For more information, call 283-4332.

AAFES 2006 Outdoor Living Catalog is now available

Army & Air Force Exchange Services' 2006 Outdoor Living Exchange Catalog is available at all main stores and online at aafes.com, usmc-mccs.org, navy-nex.com or cg-exchange.com. The 36-page outdoor living catalog has 50 new lawn and garden accessories designed to bring indoor comfort and style to the outdoors like solar-powered lights, umbrellas, an automatic lawn mower that uses no gas or oil and more.

Prices in this all-services catalog are valid until August 15 for any authorized exchange customer. Active-duty military members of the Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines and Coast Guard, as well as military retirees,

reservists, National Guardsmen, Department of Defense civilians stationed overseas, exchange employees and their family members are all authorized exchange privileges. For more information, call the Base Exchange at 283-2580.

Commissary Hours for Easter Sunday

The commissary will be open April 16 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information, call the commissary at 283-4825.

Virtual obstacle course

Fitness workshops are 3 p.m. today at Heritage Park and continue every Friday. Learn how to create a training plan for any environment. For information, call Lt. Col. (Dr.) Dan Kulund at 283-7717.

Thrift Shop hours

Consignments are 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. Wednesdays–Thursdays. The Thrift Shop is in Bldg. 743, across from the Post Office. Personnel with PCS orders may consign 80 items, of which 40 may be in-season clothing. They can consign one time starting 60 days prior to departure to 60 days after arrival, by appointment. A copy of the PCS orders is required. For more information, call 286-5888.

Airman's Attic

Family Services and the Airman's Attic are open 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday–Friday in Bldg. 747. For more information, call 283-4913.



Catholic services

Daily Mass, 11:30 a.m.
Monday–Friday,
Chapel Two
Reconciliation, before Saturday Mass or by appointment
Saturday Mass, 5 p.m.,
Chapel Two
Sunday Mass, 9:30 a.m.,
Chapel Two
Religious Education, 11 a.m.,
Bldg. 1476

Protestant services

Traditional worship service, 9:30 a.m., Chapel One
Contemporary worship service, 11 a.m., Chapel Two
Wednesday Fellowship, 5 p.m., Chapel Two

(For more information on other services in the local area, call the Chaplain's office at 283-2925.)

Cardio center offers group fitness

2ND LT. AMANDA FERRELL
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

The Tyndall Cardio Center provides a place to wind down, relieve stress and add variety to your workout routine.

Group exercise classes like cycling, yoga, Pilates, step aerobics, and mixed bag and cardio pump are scheduled by the 325th Services fitness center.

“Cardiovascular exercise is beneficial and has been shown to increase energy levels and mental focus,” said Dean Fazzio, Health and Wellness Center exercise physiologist.

The classes are free of charge and open to all military members, civilian employees, retirees, and dependants.

While many classes are offered, the lunch-hour



2nd Lt. Amanda Ferrell

Bobby Aikens, pushes through a lunch-hour cycling workout held at the Cardio Center.

cycling workout is one way to achieve personal health and fitness goals.

Cycling workouts provide a total-body, comprehensive workout. They begin with a five minute warm-up period. During the warm-up, upper-body stretches relieve tension and stretch general muscle groups. Music provides an up-beat tempo which sets the pace and provides motivation. Instructors transition from the warm-up to intense sprint intervals and lower body strengthening.

Exercising as a group has additional benefits, said fitness center personnel.

“Peer support and exercising in groups has been shown to accelerate the frequency and intensity of exercise, leading to peak physical conditioning,” Troy Boyd, 325th Services Squadron fitness specialist.

“I really enjoyed the class,” said Bobby Akins, Southeast Air Defense Sector air operations center engineer. “You push harder and get a better workout when you workout with others.”

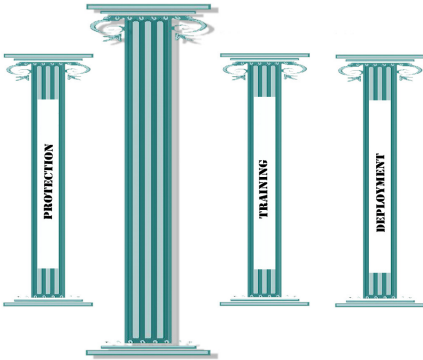
“Cycling also builds muscular strength which decreases the likelihood of injuries resulting from physical activity,” said Mr. Fazzio. “Cycling is low impact, but an efficient exercise suitable for beginners.”

Those at advanced fitness levels also benefit from the cardiovascular and strength conditioning cycling offers. Runners and triathletes often incorporate cycling into their regimen adding cross-training and variation to their workouts.

Cardio Center instructors monitor all participants and provide efficient, safe techniques to operating the machines and equipment. First time attendees and beginning cyclists are offered one-on-one attention from instructors.

The Cardio Center class schedule is determined on a monthly basis, and can be picked up at the Fitness Center. Participants are required to bring a workout towel and water to each session, and are encouraged to use the Fitness Center locker rooms for shower facilities and to store their personal belongings. For more information or a class schedule, call the Fitness Center at 283-2631.

FORCE SUSTAINMENT



Intramural Sports Standings

Soccer

Team	W	L	Team	W	L
372 TRS	4	0	ACS	2	3
OSS	4	0	83 FWS	1	2
MDG	3	1	TEST	1	3
AMXS	3	2	MSS	1	3
MXS	2	2	53 WEG	0	3
COMM	2	2			

Volleyball

Team	W	L	Team	W	L
OSS	3	0	COMM	1	2
MXS	2	0	CES	1	3
CONR	2	0	372 TRS	0	1
AFCESA	2	0	ACS 2	0	1
83 FWS	2	0	CPTS	0	2
SEADS	2	1	MSS	0	2
ACS	1	1	AFRL	0	3

Bowling

Team	W	L	Team	W	L
601st #2	150	82	RED HORSE	116	116
SFS	145	87	CES	114	118
AMXS	140	92	SVS	113	119
1st AMU 2	139	93	NCOA	112	120
MXS Phase	138	94	CS 1	110	122
1st AMU 3	135	97	AMMO	108	124
IAM	134	98	ACS 1	108	124
MXS 1	126	106	83 FWS 2	106	126
MSS 2	126	106	CONS	101	131
AFCESA	124	108	CS 2	100	132
MSS 1	122	110	53rd WEG	97	135
OSS	122	110	MOS	96	136
1st AMU 1	121	111	ACS 2	96	136
Test	120	112	AAFES	86	146
601st 1	120	112	Med Gp	84	148
83 FWS 1	119	113	1FS	76	156

Teams sought for Tyndall’s Firefighter’s Combat Challenge



Courtesy photo

A team runs the bucket brigade challenge during a February competition.

Teams are being sought for Tyndall’s 2006 Firefighters Combat Challenge during Safety Day May 26 from approximately 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

The challenge consists of six events and there will be a maximum of 20 teams of four persons each with a mandatory 2-person back up and a rehabilitation officer.

Teams will compete in six events/

challenges against time or other teams.

Teams will earn points base on the outcome of each event. Prizes will be awarded at the conclusion of the challenge for fist, second and third place teams.

All challenges are based on actual tasks Tyndall firefighters perform and sometimes required donning the gear they wear. Some challenges also re-

quire maneuvering with heavy equipment.

Challenges include a bunker/hydrant drill; bucket brigade; dummy carry; rescue maze; barrel competition and hose roll.

To sign up a team, contact Michael Newberry at 283-4777 or Edward Best at 283-4231.

(Courtesy of the 325th Fighter Wing Safety Office)

Security forces depict night shift

SENIOR AIRMEN STACEY HAGA
325th Fighet Wing Public Affairs

For most people at Tyndall, the work day ends at 4:30 p.m. and they are well on their way home by 5 p.m. However, for a group of night-shift security forces personnel, 5 p.m. is just the beginning of their 13-hour work day.

These are the men and women who keep the base secure while others lie asleep in bed.

“We ask our Airmen to do a great deal these days, from the front lines in Iraq to base security at home. I am extremely proud of the 325 SFS Defenders. They are our sentinels, keeping Tyndall and America safe,” said Col. Marc Luiken, 325th Mission Support Group commander.

The night-shift crew has their daily guard mount, or roll call, about 5:15 p.m. During guard mount, they are issued weapons, briefed on recent incidents, conduct training and are reminded of safety issues, said Staff Sgt. Michael Muir, 325th SFS patrolman, who has worked on night shift for approximately three years.

Once guard mount is finished, the security forces head out to their assigned duty areas. Those

areas include the armory, patrol regions covering the entire base, gate-guard duty and the Security Forces control center.

The armory is responsible for all weapons used on the shift. They also prepare the weapons for the next shift change, said Staff Sgt. Robert Livingston, 325th SFS patrolman.

Those on patrol have the responsibility of conducting traffic safety, assisting medical and fire response professionals, performing building checks and handling any other issues that may arise. Unfortunately, some of the other issues night shift faces includes DUIs and domestic disturbances, said Sergeant Muir.

The gate guards have the routine identification card checks of those entering base, but even at night they face challenges not often seen by their teammates on



Photos by Senior Airman Stacey Haga

Technical Sgt. John Clowe checks the inspection tag for Senior Airman Lloyd Wagner's gas mask. The 325th SFS personnel conducted this task as part of a recent base exercise.

day shift.

“It’s a trade off; day shift has more IDs to check and more traffic,” said Henry Head, Akal security guard.

The control center, nicknamed “the hole” or “dungeon,” acts as a central hub of security forces. The control center personnel an-

● SEE NIGHT PAGE 17

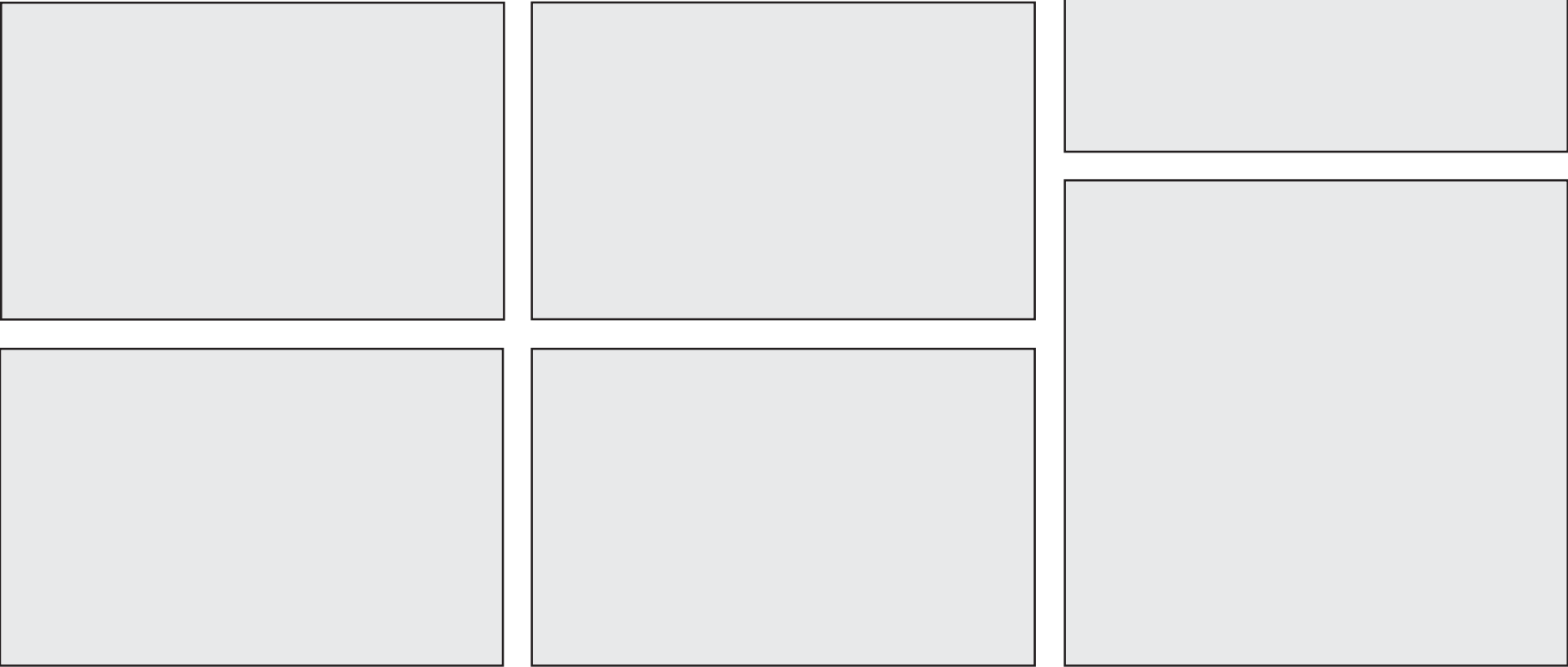
● FROM WINGMAN PAGE 3

stop endeavoring to improve their craft and no one trains harder than they do. They’re dedicated, positive, focused and they always put others before themselves.

In a strong Wingman’s mind, the mission is not 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday - Friday. It’s all day, every day, and the reason is simply because, in the profession of arms, lives depend on it. We are honor bound to do our jobs well, and help our Wingmen do theirs well. Whatever our career field, directly or indirectly, a fellow Airman, Sailor or Soldier is depending on us for their survival, as well as to create desired effects in the battlespace and achieve victory. There is no second place in this business.

For the 15th straight year, our service finds itself engaged in conflict around the globe, and whether we find ourselves in far off lands defending freedom or at home training, we need to watch each other’s six o’clock. Fully embracing the Wingman concept, perhaps more than any other factor, has made our service the most revered in history.

Wingmen, not machines, win battles. So whether we’re finishing office projects, turning aircraft on the flightline or teaching the next generation of air-dominance warriors, we owe each Wingman our absolute best mission performance. It’s what sets us apart in this profession of arms. The Air Force doesn’t believe in a “fair fight,” and on this note I rest comfortably, because with an overwhelming superiority in the Wingman factor, you can’t help but feel pity for our adversaries.



● **FROM POW PAGE 4**

the Red Cross and the YMCA which were in full force. The Red Cross was regularly sending parcels similar to a “care package” that a unit or loved one here would send to an Airman deployed. However, these parcels weren’t just morale boosters, they were relied upon as basic sustenance. A can of boned turkey or a block of processed cheese became the most important thing in the world when you barely survived on meager portions of “black bread” (made with 70 percent grain and beets, 20 percent sawdust and 10 percent leaves and straw) and watery soup. The empty cans the items were packaged in were recycled to make clever improvised machines called “blowers” that could cook, heat water and toast bread.

No doubt, if it weren’t for food and medicine received from the Red Cross, conditions would have been much worse for the prisoners. More would have been seriously ill and more would have died.

That support made them stronger. We can gain strength today and tomorrow from the support we’ll give each other. We can gain strength today and tomorrow from the spirit that persevered yesterday. Tomorrow we can better survive because of today’s training, discipline and care, which everyday gets better than yesterday’s. I encourage you to take that discipline, training and care seriously. Remember the POWs who persevered the next time you grumble about getting a flu shot, a dental checkup or an annual physical assessment.

I encourage anyone deploying today to keep a log. I encourage loved ones and units to send care packages. I also encourage a visit to the National POW museum in Andersonville, Ga. It’s on the now peaceful and pristine sight of a Civil War POW camp. There you see all things related to POW life throughout the wars, including World War II POW logs and a model of a “blower.”

Interestingly in 2004, a book was

published titled “Behind the Barbed Wire,” by Angelo Spinelli, a captured Army Signal Corps photographer who was in Stalag III B with my grandfather. Sergeant Spinelli risked his life to obtain a camera and secretly photograph everyday life in his camp. As a result, he brought home the most comprehensive collection of photos that exist which depict life in a German camp; many of which can be seen in the book.

My grandfather left the following poem from his log that could easily be appropriate words for anyone who is separated from a loved one:

“I idly dream you love me true,
Your dear love sees you close to me,
If I could see you face to face,
It would be near as heavenly blest,
I do not hear the things you say,
Nor touch your hands nor your lovely hair,
Yet far away the flowers do bloom,
From there to me the fragrance looms,
And so across the empty space,
My star does have a steady pace,
My love for you will never rest.”



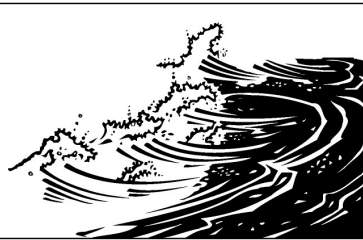
2nd Lt. Amanda Ferrell

Mateys march

Children and staff, dressed as pirates, walk in a Child Development Center parade to kick off the Month of the Military Child at Tyndall Monday. More events are scheduled this month to honor the 30-day celebration that underscores the important role military children play in the armed forces community. For a more detailed list, contact the CDC at 283-4747, or the Youth Center at 283-4366.



Funshine NEWS



www.325thservices.com

☆ Log onto the NEW & IMPROVED Web site ☆

www.325thservices.com

April Pizza Pub special



**1 large (16") specialty pizza
(supreme or signature)
\$13.95**

Dine in or carry out.

For details, call the Pizza Pub 283-3222.

GULF COAST SALUTE 2006



5K Fun Run/Walk
Prizes awarded! April 22
Check-in 7 a.m. Prizes awarded!

Walkers 8 a.m. and runners 8:30 a.m.
will start at the Fitness Center.

Registration will be available at the Fitness Center.

Tyndall Fitness & Sports Center
283-2631 & Fax 283-4543
Bldg. 939

Travel Show

at the O'Club

**\$7,000 in door prizes.
Free entry!**



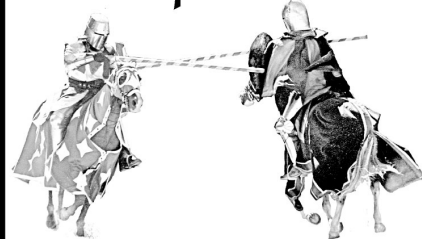
**April 28
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

For details, call Community Center 283-2495.

Medieval Banquet

at the O'Club

**May 12
6 p.m.**



\$12.50 per person

Limited to 150

Club member only event

for details, call 283-4357.

Attention Team Tyndall: Place a *free* classified ad in the Gulf Defender

Military classified ads are placed in the Gulf Defender on a space available basis. Ads must be for a one-time sale of personal goods and should include a complete description, 30 words or less, of item being sold. Forms must be turned in by 2 p.m. Thursday for publication in the following Friday's Gulf Defender. Completed forms can be dropped off or mailed to the 325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office at 445 Suwannee Rd. Ste. 129, Tyndall AFB, FL 32403, or faxed to 283-3225. Ads can also be sent in by e-mail to checkertailmarket@tyndall.af.mil.

Rank/Name _____

Unit/Office Symbol _____

Duty Phone _____

Home Phone _____

Item description (One ad per form)
(30 words or less)

We value your opinion!

*Take a couple of minutes to give us your thoughts
on how we can make the Gulf Defender better:*

Did the front page grab your Yes ☐ No ☐
attention?

Do you feel there is a good mix of Yes ☐ No ☐
local, command and Air Force-level
news?

Do the photos encourage you to
read accompanied articles?

Yes ☐ No ☐

Is the Gulf Defender easy to read
and follow?

Yes ☐ No ☐

What did you find most interesting
in this week's paper? _____

If you could change one thing in the
paper, what would it be? _____

Comments:

● FROM NIGHT PAGE 14

swers the Crime Stoppers hotline on base, 911 calls, and calls made to Security Forces. They then relay the information to the patrolmen on duty. The control center also monitors the alarms on base, said Senior Airman Renae Wolff, 325th SFS sentry.

In addition to all the humans

working during the dark hours, there is *Ciro*. *Ciro* is a military working dog who can detect explosive devices. He, along with his handler Staff Sgt. Michael Coulter, 325th SFS MWD handler, conduct random car and building searches during night shift.

Together these security forces work to “make sure everything

is secure (on Tyndall),” said Sergeant Muir.

They also work with the local law enforcement of Parker, Mexico Beach, and Bay County when the situation calls for it.

“It’s a pretty good relationship we have with them,” said Staff Sgt. Marc Dexter, 325th SFS patrolman.

However, the good relationships don’t just end with the local sector. There is a strong camaraderie between the airmen on night shift.

“I chose this shift. The flight has good leadership and good people. We hang out together,” said Staff Sgt. Jason Dunn, who is a reservist patrolman from Maxwell, currently working with the 325th SFS.

“I like to carry a big gun and the people I work with,” said Airman 1st Class Fabiola Yanez, 325th SFS sentry.

From monthly barbecues to the occasional Chuck Norris joke, these Airmen know how to keep morale up while getting the job done. They work from dusk until dawn to play a vital role in keeping the Tyndall community safe. It’s all in a night’s work.



Senior Airman Joel Garcia, 325th SFS sentry, checks identification cards at Tyndall's main gate.

AAFES recruits, employs military family members

DALLAS – As a military command with a retail mission, the Army & Air Force Exchange Service relies on more than 45,000 military and civilian associates to provide quality goods and services at competitively low prices and generate earnings to support MWR programs from Mosul, Iraq, to Malmstrom AFB, Mont.

What often sets an AAFES facility apart from the competition is a core of dedicated military family members who bring a unique understanding of customers’ needs to the post or base exchange. These 11,122 active-duty military family members now account for nearly a quarter of all AAFES associates, making AAFES one of the largest employers (if not *the* largest employer) of military families.

“Military family members are already AAFES customers; they understand troops better than anyone,” said Mike Westphal, AAFES human resources senior vice president. “Having them in our stores is really a win/win for all involved. Customers receive top-notch service from a member of their community, AAFES shares best practices

from store to store through associates who move from location to location and family members take comfort in knowing that they’ll receive preferred employment opportunities when they arrive at their new duty station.”

Like other Department of Defense employers, AAFES offers employment preference to military spouses and family members. Once employed, AAFES’ reinstatement program helps military families when they move from installation to installation by allowing eligible AAFES associates to compete with current associates for in-house jobs. “That’s in addition to having up to 36 months to find a job at the new location, while maintaining eligibility for reinstatement benefits,” said Mr. Westphal.

As a founding member of the Army Spouse Employment Partnership, AAFES was one of the first employers to sign a statement of support pledging its best efforts to increase employment opportunities and provide training for Army spouses. Out of that partnership, AAFES has developed

an aggressive initiative to expand career opportunities for military spouses of all branches called the “Spouse Employment Continuity” program. Started on Feb. 1, this effort offers non-competitive priority placement to eligible AAFES associates who are spouses of military members, required to relocate with their sponsor. Currently, the provisions of the one-year test apply to spouses relocated to or within the continental U.S. Upon conclusion, and depending on the results of the test, “Spouse Employment Continuity” will be considered for AAFES-wide implementation.

AAFES is currently recruiting for entry-level positions and management positions worldwide in retail, information systems, finance and accounting, logistics, food service/restaurant management, contracting and procurement, and occasionally other career fields. Military family members can find out more about AAFES’ “Spouse Employment Preference” program, along with a listing of current job openings, at odin.aafes.com/employment/default.asp.

(Courtesy of AAFES)

Gulf Coast Salute

Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida 2006

Featuring

- The Air Force Thunderbirds
- The Army Golden Knights
- The Flash-fire Jet Truck

Feel the Thunder April 22-23

For more information, call 283-9560



